

To: House Committee on Tourism
From: Michigan Boating Industries Association
Ref: House Bill No. 5722

My name is Ray Underwood and I am here today representing the Michigan Boating Industries Association in opposition of HB 5722 which proposes to change the long standing registration fee system for **motorized vessels** in the State of Michigan.

Our association does not support the changing of watercraft formulas by horsepower or in this case by electricity. A motor by definition is a motor.

Changing the **propulsion aspects** of a vessels motor in our mind does not change the reality that it is indeed a **motorized vessel**!

Motorized Vessels, required to be registered, contribute a significant amount of registration fees toward the development and maintenance of public access to our states waterways. These access sites support the use by all forms of watercraft, whether powered by paddles, oars, sails, electric motors or fueled motors. These access sites and also a growing number of non-motorized, non-registered vessels.

As we all know, Michigan for many years was the number one state in "registered recreational watercraft." We are now number three! Those states that have surpassed our traditional ranking have instituted systems for registering, in some form, all water craft.

It is generally accepted, that if Michigan were to follow other states and institute an all "**watercraft registration or use sticker process**" Not only would we regain the lead in "national status" we, would be providing more dollars for public facilities.